

REMARKS

These amendments and remarks are filed in response to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2008. For the following reasons, this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. The amendments to claims 1, 14, and 15; and new claims 16 and 17 are supported throughout the specification, including page 12, last line to page 13, line 6; and page 10, line 15 to page 11, line 6.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 were rejected. Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 are newly added in this response.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action alleged that the Specification did not contain an Abstract. This objection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested.

An Abstract was filed with this application, as evidenced by the attached photocopy of the USPTO stamped postcard, indicating receipt of the Abstract. For the benefit of the Office, a copy of the Abstract, as filed, is attached.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathias et al. (US 6,376,111) in view of Busenbender (US 2003/0039870) and Suzuki et al. (US 2001/0010872). This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. The following is a comparison between the present invention, as claimed, and the cited prior art.

Claim 1 requires a programmable controller programmed to: determine a target humidity based on the temperature of the fuel cells after power generation is halted; control the moisture-adjusted gas generating mechanism such that the humidity of the moisture-adjusted gas matches

the target humidity; and control the moisture-adjusted gas generating mechanism to supply the moisture-adjusted gas adjusted to the target humidity to at least one of the anode and cathode after power generation in the fuel cells is halted.

The Office Action alleged that Suzuki et al. teach a control system (para. [0033]) which directs dry air to remove residual moisture, and thereby changing the humidity level, in a fuel cell system to prevent freezing (paras. [0043, 0048]). The control system according to Suzuki et al., however, directs dry air to the humidifier 3, not to the anode or cathode in the fuel cell 1, when freezing is anticipated (para. [0048]).

Mathias, Busenbender, and Suzuki et al., whether taken alone, or in combination, do not suggest the feature of controlling the moisture-adjusted gas generating mechanism to supply the moisture-adjusted gas adjusted to the target humidity to at least one of the anode and cathode after power generation in the fuel cells is halted, as required by claim 1.

Claims 3, 4, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathias et al., Busenbender, and Suzuki et al., and further in view of Nonobe (US 6,524,733).

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathias et al., Busenbender, and Suzuki et al., and further in view of Ban et al. (US 6,350,536) and Gilbert (US 2003/0170506).

These rejections are traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested.

Mathias et al., Busenbender, Suzuki et al., Nonobe, Ban et. al., and Gilbert, whether taken in combination, or taken alone, do not suggest the claimed fuel cell system. Nonobe, Ban et al., and Gilbert do not cure the deficiencies of Mathias et al., Busenbender, and Suzuki et al., as Nonobe, Ban et al., and Gilbert do not suggest controlling the moisture-adjusted gas generating

mechanism to supply the moisture-adjusted gas adjusted to the target humidity to at least one of the anode and cathode after power generation in the fuel cells is halted, as required by claim 1.

Claims 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathias et al., Busenbender, and Suzuki et al., and further in view of Sugiura (JP 2003-022831).

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathias et al. in view of Nonobe and further in view of Sugiura.¹

These rejections are traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested.

Sugiura teaches that acid on the surface of the metal separator 18 is flushed by water drops which are produced from the humidified gas as an effect of the gravity and is discharged out of the stack 23 (see para.[0013]). Therefore, it is clear that the humidified gas according to Sugiura must be saturated in order to produce condensed water (water drop) in the passage (27). Unlike Sugiura, however, the moisture-adjusted gas according to the present invention is adjusted to a target humidity with which water vapor in the moisture-adjusted gas does not condense when supplied to at least one of the anode and cathode after power generation in the fuel cells is halted. Thus, the moisture-adjusted gas according to Claims 1, 14, and 15 is different from the saturated humidified gas according to Sugiura.

The dependent claims, including new claims 16 and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 and further distinguish the claimed organic electroluminescent device.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this

¹ Claims 14 and 15 are rejected in two separate paragraphs in the Office Action.

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Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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